

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a ~~document file~~ describing a document from a sender computer to a receiver computer via a computer network linking the sender computer and the receiver computer to a server computer, wherein the sender computer is operated by a sender, wherein the receiver computer is operated by a receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

~~a. transmitting the document file from the sender computer to the server computer via the computer network;~~

~~b. transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer; and~~

~~c. providing viewer software executed by the receiver computer for generating a display of an image of the document described by the document file when received by the receiver computer, and for thereafter automatically returning verification data to the server computer via the computer network verifying that the receiver computer has successfully displayed the document image.~~

a. generating a document file describing the document on the sender computer;

b. sending the document file from the sender computer to the server computer;

c. sending email to the receiver computer containing a hypertext link that the receiver activates to send a reference to the document file to the server computer;

d. sending the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer after the server computer receives the reference to the document file from the receiver computer;

e. processing the document file sent to the receiver computer to generate a display of an image of the document in a browser window on the receiver computer; and

f. sending verification data from the receiver computer to the server computer indicating that the receiver computer has successfully displayed the image of the document in the browser window.

2. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

~~d. g.~~ storing log data on the server computer indicating when the receiver computer returned the verification data to the server

computer indicating that the receiver computer has successfully displayed in the browser window the image of the document referenced by the hypertext link; and

~~e.~~ h. providing the sender computer with access to the log data via the computer network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

~~d.~~ g. transmitting a comment file containing comments generated by the receiver from the receiver computer to the server computer, wherein the comment file references the document file;

~~e.~~ h. storing the comment file on the server computer; and

~~f.~~ i. providing the sender computer with access to the comment file via the computer network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the ~~steps of~~ step of:

~~d.~~ g. transmitting a publish request from the sender computer to the server computer wherein the publish request identifies the receiver computer; and

~~e. prior to step b, transmitting an email message generated by the sender from the server computer to the receiver computer identified in the publish request, wherein the email message references the document file.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 4 further comprising the step of:

~~f. prior to step e, h.~~ storing the document file in the server computer and assigning a network address to the document file stored on the server computer, wherein the ~~email message transmitted sent at step e includes a reference to~~ hypertext link references the assigned network address.

6. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with ~~claim 5~~ wherein the ~~reference to the assigned network address is a hypertext link included in the email message~~ claim 1 further comprising the step of:

g. sending a document password entry form from the server computer to the receiver computer after the server computer receives the reference to the document file from the receiver computer, wherein the receiver enters into the document password entry form a document password associated with the document that the receiver computer sends to the server computer prior to step d.

7. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with ~~claim 1~~ wherein ~~step a comprises the sub-steps of:~~

~~a1. transmitting a publish request from the sender computer to the server computer, wherein the publish request identifies the receiver computer, wherein the publish request indicates that the receiver must sign on to the server computer by transmitting a user name and a user password to the server computer via the computer network in order to receive the document file, and~~

~~a2. transmitting the document file from the sender computer to the server computer via the computer network claim 6 further comprising the step of:~~

h. sending a user sign-in form from the server computer to the receiver after the server computer receives the reference to the document file from the receiver computer at step c, wherein the user enters into the sign-in form a user name and a user password that the receiver computer sends to the server computer prior to step d.

8. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with ~~claim 7~~ wherein ~~step b comprises the sub-steps of:~~

~~b1. verifying that the receiver is signed on to the server computer, and~~

~~b2. thereafter transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network claim 1 wherein step a comprises generating on the sender computer a print file for directing a printer to print the document, and processing the print file to generate the document file.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the document file is a print file and ~~wherein step a comprises the sub-steps and the method further comprising the step of:~~

~~a1. g. transmitting a publish request from the sender computer to the server computer, wherein the publish request identifies the receiver computer, wherein the publish request indicates that the receiver computer is to be prevented from sending the document file to a printer, and~~

~~a2. transmitting the document file from the sender computer to the server computer via the computer network.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 9 wherein ~~step b comprises the sub steps step of:~~

~~b1. transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network, and~~

~~b2. preventing the receiver computer from sending the document file to the printer~~ step a comprises generating on the sender computer a print file for directing a printer to print the document, and then compressing the print file to generate the document file and

wherein step e comprises decompressing the document file to produce the print file and then processing the print file to generate the display of the image of the document in the browser window on the receiver computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

~~d. g. assigning to the document file a first document password generated by the sender, and~~

~~e. prior to step b, h. transmitting the first document password to the server computer.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 11 wherein ~~step b comprises the sub step further comprising the steps of:~~

~~b1. i. providing a document password entry form to the receiver computer in which the receiver enters the document password,~~

~~b2. j. conveying a second the document password entered into the document password entry form to the server computer, and~~

~~b3. transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network when the second password matches the first password, wherein step g is carried out;~~

only after the server computer receives the document password from the receiver computer.

13. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the receiver computer returns the verification data to the server computer as an encoded network address.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting a document file describing a document from a sender computer to a receiver computer via a computer network linking the sender computer and the receiver computer to a server computer, wherein the sender computer is operated by a sender, wherein the receiver computer is operated by a receiver, wherein the receiver computer includes a monitor viewable by the receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

a. transmitting the document file via the computer network from the sender computer to the server computer;

b. storing the document file on the server computer and assigning the document file a unique network address;

c. transmitting an email message via the computer network to the receiver computer, wherein the email message includes a hypertext link to the document files assigned network address;

d. displaying the email message on the receiver computer monitor so that the receiver may view it and activate the hypertext link whereby the receiver computer returns the document file's network address to the server computer;

e. transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network following the receiver's activation of the hypertext link; and

f. providing viewer software running on the receiver computer for generating a display on the receiver computer monitor of the document described by the document file when received by the receiver computer;

wherein when the viewer software has successfully displayed the document, it automatically returns verification data in the form of an encoded network address to the server computer via the computer network verifying that the document has been successfully displayed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising the step of:

g. prior to step a, transmitting a publish request from the sender computer to the server computer wherein the publish request identifies the receiver ~~computer~~ that is to receive the email message at step c.

16. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the publish request transmitted in step g indicates that the receiver must sign on to the server computer by transmitting, prior to step e, a user name and a user password to the server computer via the computer network in order to receive the document file at step e.

17. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 16 wherein step e comprises the sub-steps of:

e1. verifying that the receiver is signed on to the server computer, and

e2. thereafter transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network following the receiver's activation of the hypertext link.

18. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with ~~claim 15~~ claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

h. assigning to the document file a ~~first~~ document password generated by the sender; and

i. prior to step b, transmitting the ~~first~~ document password to the server computer.

19. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 18 wherein step e comprises the substeps of:

e1. providing a document password entry form to the receiver computer in which the receiver enters the document password;

e2. conveying a ~~second~~ the document password entered into the document password entry form from the receiver computer to the server computer; and

e3. transmitting the document file from the server computer to the receiver computer via the computer network at step e only ~~when the~~

second password matches the first after the server computer receives the document password from the receiver computer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the document file is a print file and wherein the publish request indicates whether the receiver computer is to be prevented from sending the document file to a printer.

21. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

g. storing log data on the server computer indicating when the receiver computer returned the verification data to the server computer; and

h. providing the sender computer with access to the log data via the computer network.

22. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

g. transmitting a comment file containing comments generated by the receiver from the receiver computer to the server computer, wherein the comment file references the document file;

h. storing the comment file on the server computer; and

i. providing the sender computer with access to the comment file via the computer network.